

# Glossary

- Aigrette:** Upright tuft of feathers; something resembling a feather aigrette.
- Alpaca:** Shiny plain-weave fabric with silk or cotton warp and alpaca filling.
- Armure:** Fabric with a pebbly surface, sometimes with a repeat design or small motifs.
- Astrakhan:** Pile-weave fabric imitating Persian lamb or broadtail fur.
- Basque:** Small peplum.
- Basquine:** Woman's coat or jacket.
- Batavia:** Lightweight, twill-weave silk fabric.
- Batiste:** High-quality, soft, lightweight cotton fabric.
- Bavolet:** Flounce falling from the rear of a bonnet concealing the back of the neck.
- Bayadère:** Crosswise multicolored stripes; fabric with such stripes.
- Bengaline:** Heavy ribbed silk with a corded effect.
- Bertha:** Piece of fabric bordering the neckline of a bodice, or a collar placed on a wide neckline, usually of equal width all around.
- Blonde:** Silk lace that may be either white or black.
- Boa:** Long round scarf, often of fur or feathers.
- Bolero:** Waist or rib-length jacket, with or without sleeves.
- Bottine:** Short boot.
- Bouillonné:** Shirred band of fabric.
- Bretelles:** Shoulder straps attached to a waistband, either decorative or actually supporting a skirt.
- Brocade:** Fabric with a satin-weave design on a plain-, satin-, or rib-weave background.
- Broderie anglaise:** Eyelet embroidery.
- Burnous:** Sleeveless evening wrap with a hood.
- Cabochon:** Stone cut in a round convex shape without facets.
- Casaque:** Three-quarter length, loose-fitting outer garment, often open-sided and with slit sleeves, sometimes trimmed with braid.
- Cashmere:** Fine, soft dress fabric made from the wool of Kashmir goats.
- Chamois:** Soft, pliable leather.
- Changeable moiré:** Fabric with warp of one color and woof of another, giving different effect in different lights.
- Chantilly lace:** Type of bobbin lace.
- Charmeuse:** Lightweight, lustrous dress fabric of cotton or silk.
- Chemise:** A loose gown, falling straight down from shoulders to hem.
- Chemisette:** A sleeveless vestee or dickey made of fine cotton, lace, or net, used primarily to fill low necklines.
- Chenille:** Fabric made of a silk, cotton, or wool yarn with pile protruding all around.
- Cheviot:** Close-napped, rough-surfaced, twill-weave wool fabric used for suits and coats.
- Chicoree:** Manner of cutting fabric with a pinked edge, similar to a chicory leaf, and leaving it unhemmed; also a ruche formed from strips of fabric cut in this fashion.
- Chignon:** Twist of hair forming a bun, worn at the back of the head.
- Chinchilla:** Blue-gray fur.
- Cloche:** Hat with bell-shaped crown.
- Coiffure:** Hair style or headdress.
- Collarette:** Small collar, especially of lace, fur, beads, etc.
- Combinations:** Chemise-pantaloons or petticoat-pantaloons.
- Combing jacket or sacque:** Loose jacket worn over lingerie while making toilette.
- Confection:** Ready-to-wear garment, usually referring to outerwear.
- Corselet:** Lightly boned corset.
- Coutil:** A sturdy, twill-woven cotton, used for corsets.
- Covert-cloth:** Durable, medium-weight, twill-weave fabric, having a finely speckled appearance; used for suits, coats, and riding habits.
- Crepe:** Fabric with a grained or crinkled surface; can be made of silk, cotton, wool, etc.
- Crepe de chine:** Fine silk crepe.
- Crepe-chiffon:** Sheer silk crepe.
- Crepeline:** Sheer, lustrous or semi-lustrous, wool, silk, or cotton dress fabric with a crepe effect.
- Crepon:** Heavy crepe fabric.
- Dagged:** Cut into points, leaves, or scallops along the edge.
- Damask:** Reversible fabric, woven in floral or geometric patterns.
- Décolletage:** Neckline.
- Demi-boot:** Ankle boot.
- Dentelé:** Notched or scalloped.
- Diadem:** Headpiece resembling a crown.
- Duster:** Lightweight coat worn to protect clothing.
- Duvelyn:** Soft, twill-weave wool with a nap.
- En échelle:** Applied decoration, often of ribbons; simulating ladder of ribbon on a stomacher.
- Epaulettes:** Shoulder ornaments.
- Ermine:** White fur with black-tipped tails.
- Etamine:** Lightweight, loosely woven plain-weave cotton or worsted fabric.
- Fagoting:** Thread, ribbon, or braid used straight or criss-crossed in an open seam to form an openwork trimming.

- Fanchon:** Knitted or crocheted head scarf.
- Fedora:** Low felt hat with a soft, medium-width brim and a lengthwise crease in the crown.
- Fichu:** Scarf covering neck and shoulders and tied with ends over the chest or tucked into the décolletage, made of a filmy silk or cotton muslin, worn by Marie Antoinette in the 1780s and popular at various times in the nineteenth century.
- Figaro jacket:** Waist or rib-length jacket.
- Flounce:** Gathered or pleated strip of fabric sewn to a garment; one edge is generally left free.
- Foulard:** Fine soft silk or cotton in a twill weave, often printed in a small design.
- Frog:** Looped fastener made of braid or cord.
- Garniture:** Decorative trimming.
- Gauze:** Light, loosely-woven, transparent fabric of cotton, silk, or linen.
- Gilet:** Sleeveless bodice with a decorative front worn in place of a blouse.
- Glacé:** Surface finished with a glossy, highly polished effect.
- Grosgrain:** Fabric or ribbon with heavy ribs.
- Guimpe:** Short chemise of lightweight material to fill in low-necked or open bodices.
- Guipure:** Various large-patterned heavy laces, the motifs connected by brides instead of a net ground.
- Horsehair:** Stiff, loosely-woven fabric made from the hair of a horse; used for stiffening.
- Insertion:** Narrow lace or embroidery with plain edges set into a fabric as decoration.
- Jabot:** Frill or ruffle, often of lace, fastened at the neckline and falling down the front of the bodice.
- Jersey:** Plain-knit fabric, usually of wool.
- Latticework:** Openwork decoration made by crossing narrow strips of fabric, ribbon, lace, braid, etc.
- Lorgnette:** Eyeglasses on an ornamental handle.
- Maline:** Gauze-like net of silk or cotton.
- Manteau:** Overcoat or greatcoat.
- Mantelet:** Outer garment similar to a shawl made with some tailoring.
- Marabou:** Soft tail and wing feathers of the stork.
- Marten:** Soft, fine fur.
- Mary Stuart headdress:** Headdress with a heart-shaped peak projecting over the center of the forehead.
- Matinée:** A morning wrapper.
- Medici collar:** Large, fan-shaped standing collar.
- Merino:** Fine, soft, dress fabric made from the wool of the merino sheep.
- Merveilleux:** A silk or silk/cotton mixture in a twill weave with a lustrous finish.
- Mobair:** Fabric made of the long, lustrous, silky hair of the Angora goat.
- Moiré:** Stiff, ribbed silk-and-cotton fabric with a watered effect.
- Mousseline:** Muslin.
- Mousseline de soie:** A fine silk with a gauzy muslin weave.
- Muff:** Pillow-like covering for the hands.
- Muslin:** Plain-weave cotton.
- Nainsook or nainsouk:** A thin, delicate, plain-weave cotton.
- Ombre:** Graduated in color.
- Ormandy:** Crisp, fine muslin, slightly stiffened.
- Paillette:** Flat, glittering disk sewn onto fabric as decoration; spangle.
- Paletot:** Loose jacket or short overcoat, usually with sleeves.
- Panné velvet:** Velvet with flattened pile.
- Pannier:** A structure or device worn at the sides to extend the hips. Also, a portion of a skirt arranged to provide fullness at the sides.
- Pardessus:** Literally, overcoat. A general term for outer garments in the nineteenth century including mantelets, visites, paletots, etc. Used to describe men's sleeved paletots in the latter part of the century.
- Passementerie:** Applied trimmings such as braids, cords, and heavy embroideries.
- Peau-de-soie or poulte-de-soie:** A very fine, corded silk.
- Pelerine:** Cape or cloak of varying lengths.
- Pelisse:** Long cloak.
- Percalé:** Firm, plain-weave cotton fabric.
- Piqué:** Firm fabric with a lengthwise corded effect.
- Plastron:** V-shaped front of a woman's costume.
- Plissé:** Gathered or pleated.
- Plusb:** Rich fabric with longer pile than velvet.
- Point d'esprit:** Net or tulle with dots.
- Polonaise:** A coat-gown with the fronts of the skirts pulled back over an underskirt.
- Pompon:** Small ball of wool, feathers, ribbon, etc. worn as an ornament.
- Poplin:** Fabric woven with silk warp and wool or worsted filling, with a finely corded surface.
- Porte-jupe:** A belt, worn under the dress, with suspenders for looping up the outer skirt;
- Poulte-de-soie:** See *peau-de-soie*.
- Princesse:** A gown shaped from shoulder to hem without a seam at the waist.
- Raglan sleeve:** Sleeve with long armhole line extending to neckline.
- Ratiné:** Cloth made with nub yarns to produce a rough surface.
- Redingote:** Originally a man's riding coat, it is a long gown, fitted at the waist, and open down the front, worn over a skirt.
- Reps:** Fabric with closely spaced ribs running in the direction of the weft.
- Reticule:** Pouch bag with a drawstring top.
- Revers:** Lapel; also a turn-back on a sleeve or skirt.
- Rosette:** Ribbon decoration formed in the shape of a rose.
- Rouleau:** Roll or fold of fabric.
- Ruche:** A narrow pleated or shirred edging made of lace, net, or matching fabric of dress.
- Sacque:** Loose jacket.
- Scallop:** A circular curve, made in series along an edge.
- Serge:** Soft, durable, woolen fabric.
- Shantung:** Plain-weave fabric with irregular slubs, usually silk.
- Shirred:** Gathered.
- Sicilienne:** A fine poplin with silk warp and cashmere filling.
- Snood:** Heavy mesh net worn at the back of the head to confine the hair.
- Sortie de bal:** Outer garment worn over evening or ball dresses.

**Soutache:** Narrow decorative braid.

**Spencer jacket:** Tight-fitting short jacket.

**Strass:** Substance used in making costume jewelry.

**Surab:** A soft twilled silk or wool, similar to foulard but heavier.

**Swansdown:** Fine, soft underfeathers of swans, used as trimming.

**Tabbed:** Having a border of loose-hanging pieces of fabric with square or round edges.

**Tablier:** An apron effect, usually draped, on the front of a skirt.

**Taffeta:** Glossy silk fabric with a plain weave.

**Talma:** Long circular cape.

**Tarlatan:** A kind of thin, stiff, transparent muslin.

**Tassel:** An ornament with threads or cords hanging in a loose fringe.

**Toque:** Small, close-fitting, brimless hat.

**Tortoiseshell:** Mottled brown-and-yellow covering on the shell of some kinds of turtles; used in making accessories.

**Tournure:** Bustle.

**Tulle:** Fine net.

**Valenciennes:** Fine bobbin lace in which the same thread forms both the ground and the design.

**Velours:** Closely woven, smooth fabric with nap.

**Veloutine:** Corded wool dress fabric with a velvety finish.

**Vestee:** An imitation vest or blouse front worn under a dress or jacket.

**Vicuna:** Soft fabric made from the wool of the vicuña, a llama-like animal from South America.

**Visite:** Jacket closely fitting the body, with sleeves tight-fitting to the elbow, widening below.

**Voile:** Fine, transparent or semi-transparent plain-weave fabric of cotton, silk, rayon, or wool.

**Wrapper:** Loose, informal garment for casual wear.

**Zephyr:** Very lightweight fabric.

**Zouave jacket:** Woman's short, military-style jacket.